MAR 10 1964

Case: SI-643(PHI-NJ)(F) AT:[illegible]

Report examined and approved

(signed) Charles H. Peterson

Executive Assistant, [illegible]

Regional Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attention: Assistant Regional Commissioner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax

This is the closing report of an investigation relating to the reported association of Valmore J. Forgett, Jr. with "Minute Men of America". This investigation was begun upon receipt of a memorandum from the Assistant Regional Commissioner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax, New York, dated January 13, 1964. Copy of an article titled "Death for Sale -- in a Catalogue" published in the November 26, 1963 issue of the New York Journal-American newspaper, was also forwarded. This memorandum from New York stated that Nathan Adams, one of the writers of the "Death for Sale" article claimed to have information that would lead to the conclusion that Forgett is the Eastern contact man for the "Minute Men of America".

Special Investigator Rudolph Kales, New York, arranged for an interview with Adams. Mr. Kales also furnished a clipping from the New York Daily News, issue of January 21, 1964, which stated that Representative Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tenn.) had asked Chief Justice Earl Warren to investigate the Minute Men organization. According to Representative Gonzalez, the Minute Men endorse the use of a variety of weapons from pistols to poison to target rifles, in the pursuit of their goals.

Mr. Nathan Adams, a special feature writer for the New York Journal American, was interviewed at his newspaper offices, 220 South Street, New York, N. Y. Mr. Adams admitted that he had no evidence to substantiate an association of Forgett with the Minute Men organization, but that various circumstances surrounding his investigation preparatory to the writing of his article had led to this conclusion. This article was the outgrowth of an incident involving three young men, dressed in semi-military clothing and wearing World War I and II type helmets, who had in their possession a variety of rifles and revolvers and a 20 m.m. anti-tank cannon. They were firing some of these weapons at the Cherry Ridge

Rifle Range, Canistear Road, Vernon Township, Sussex County, N. J., on October 5, 1963. Publication date of this article was several days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Adams set forth in his article the fact that there are no Federal, State or Municipal ordinances which prohibit the possession of many weapons advertised and sold by some dealers.

Mr. Adams learned that some of the weapons, including the 20 m.m. anti-tank cannon and the 20 m.m. ammunition had been purchased from Service Armament Company, 689 Bergen Boulevard, Ridgefield, N. J. He then interviewed Mr. Valmore Forgett, Jr., president and founder of the concern, after creating the impression that he was considering writing an article which would give Forgett and his company favorable publicity. Adams was very cordially received and shown around the Service Armament showrooms and workshop; Forgett appeared to be very pleased and was cooperative in his manner. Subsequent to this interview, Adams telephoned Mr. Richard DeFugh at Hannibal, Missouri, reportedly the National Coordinator for the Minute Men and requested some pertinent information regarding the organization and its aims. Adams was told that DeFugh would contact the Eastern Coordinator for the organization, who would then communicate with Adams and furnish the desired information.

Several days later, not having heard from the Eastern Coordinator of Minute Men, Adams telephoned Forgett. On this occasion, Forgett was abrupt and rude in his manner, and quickly terminated the conversation. The complete turnabout in Forgett's attitude between the interview and this telephone call gave Adams the belief that Forgett is connected with the Minute Men group, and that he could be the Eastern Coordinator referred to by DeFugh.

A second possibility in Adams' mind was that Forgett might have been contacted by the Eastern Coordinator and told of Adams' interest and inquiries regarding the organization. Mr. Adams believed that the sudden change in Forgett's attitude after his (Adams) telephone conversation with DeFugh strongly supports his conclusion that Forgett is the Eastern Coordinator for the Minute Men group or that Forgett is very closely associated with that person.

In regard to Mr. Adams' reference to a farm owned by Forgett in the vicinity of Newfoundland, N. J., this property was acquired by Forgett and his wife within the past two years. The address of this farm, "Cannon Hill Farm", Box 311-B, R.D.1, Sussex, N. J., was used by Mrs. Adelhied Forgett as Secretary-Treasurer of Service Armament Company on Form 11, "Application for Special Tax Stamp, Class 4 Dealer" in June 1963.

There are no provisions under the Federal Firearms Act or the National Firearms Act that would prohibit Service Armament Company from using a part of this farm as a warehouse for the temporary storage of firearms, provided that appropriate records are maintained at the licensed premises served by such a warehouse.

Investigation of the firearms incident of October 5, 1963, at the Cherry Ridge Rifle Range, Canistear Road, Vernon Township, Sussex County, N. J. was made in an effort to substantiate Mr. Adams' conclusions. The results of this investigation show that on the afternoon of October 5, 1963, three young men, who are very close friends, took a number of rifles, two revolvers, and a 20 m.m. Lahti anti-tank cannon, and set out on an overnight camping trip. Their destination was the Cherry Ridge Rifle Range, where they intended to camp and to fire the various weapons on the range. These men were:

Richard C. Breunich, age 21
931 Red Road, Teaneck, N. J.

Robert A. Young, Jr., age 22,
207 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, N. J.

Warren Bruce Young, age 17,
207 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, N. J.

Breunich and the Young brothers reached the rifle range about dusk and set about making their camp; after that Robert Young began preparing supper and Breunich and Warren Young started to do some shooting. The latter two also set off some homemade bombs made of black powder and firecrackers, as well as "ash cans" and cherry bombs. One of these bombs, which Breunich made, was set off by Warren Young in a small shack near the pistol range. Two New Jersey State Game Wardens, James Parrish and James Holley, attracted by the noise and flashes in the sky, came up and stopped the firing, taking custody of the two revolvers and the 20 m.m. cannon, and made the young men sit by the campfire. The State Police were summoned and arrived several hours later; they took custody of the two revolvers and the cannon. The young men were questioned at the range and again at the Newfoundland State Police Barracks; they were then released without formal charges pending further investigation.

The following day, Breunich realized that he had not turned the 20 m.m. ammunition over to the State Police. Breunich and the Young brothers then drove up to Newfoundland from their homes, and turned in this ammunition.

About a week later, Breunich received a telephone call from the State Police, requesting that he bring all his rifles to the Newfoundland Barracks for testing. Breunich took his firearms and those belonging to Warren Bruce Young and delivered these as requested. On December 11, 1963, Breunich and Robert Young were arrested on warrants obtained by the State Police, and charged with Malicious Mischief and Possession of a Bomb; Grand Jury action is pending on these charges. No charges have yet been made against Warren Bruce Young, a juvenile.

New Jersey State Trooper John M. Burns was interviewed and copies of his Minor Initial Reports obtained (Exh. 1 and 1-A). Captain Frank Pasch, Administrative Officer, and Captain Gerald Dollar, Criminal Investigative Division, both of the New Jersey State Police Headquarters, were interviewed, but neither could furnish any additional pertinent information. Neither of these men had any knowledge of the Minute Men organization, nor had they any information as to the formation or activities of any "semi-military groups" in the Teaneck or Cherry Ridge areas.

Robert Young, Jr. is now on active duty with the United States Coast Guard, stationed at Sandy Hook, N. J. Warren Bruce Young was interviewed at his home, 207 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, N.J., in the presence of his father. Young stated that he had never heard of the Minute Men organization and that he did not belong to any military or semi-military group. He did say that he had long been interested in firearms and had taken part in several historical pageants which presented re-enactments of Revolutionary War battles. These pageants were held at Stony Point and White Plains, N. Y., in the fall of 1963. In these pageants, Young took the part of a British soldier, and simulated gunfire was part of the battle. Young stated that he had been employed part time at the Service Armament Corporation during 1963; he worked mostly on Saturdays if and when work was available. His W-2 form showed $342.46 earnings from Forgett's corporation in 1963. Young said that he had never received any arms or ammunition in lieu of wages, and that he knew Forgett, but had no contacts with him outside of his employment.

Richard C. Breunich, 931 Red Road, Teaneck, N. J., was interviewed at his residence in the presence of his father, Charles B. Breunich, and a signed statement obtained (Exh. 2). During this interview, Breunich said he had never worked for Forgett's Service Armament Corporation, but that he had done some brush-clearing work at the Forgett "Cannon Hill Farm, R. D. 1, Sussex, N. J., on several week ends. He stated that he had never heard of the Minute Men except for the reference in Mr. Adams' New York Journal American newspaper article. According to Breunich, on the night they were first questioned by the State Police at the Cherry Ridge Rifle Range, they were dressed in surplus army "field jackets", heavy duty work trousers and other camp gear normal for that time of the year. He said they wore surplus Army helmets as

protection against the possibility of ricocheting stones or bullets. He further stated that he had been experimenting with bombs made of black powder and firecrackers in an attempt to more realistically simulate the sounds of gunfire for the historical Revolutionary War battle re-creations in which both he and Warren Young had participated in the previous Fall.

Local police records were checked in Teaneck, N.J.; none of the young men have any record of arrest. Detective Sgt. R. Errick was interviewed; he had no knowledge of anything detrimental to the three men under investigation.

It should be noted that the Malicious Mischief charge against Breunich dates back to December, 1962, when a building and tractor were admittedly damaged at the Cherry Ridge Rifle Range by him. According to Breunich, this building was a wooden, garage-type building in which was stored an old and previously damaged tractor; he fired three shots from his 20 m.m. cannon into the building. Carl E. Kastner, President of the Cherry Ridge Rifle Range never made any reports of vandalism or malicious damages at the Range until after Breunich and the two Young brothers were stopped and questioned on October 5, 1963. Kastner's first complaint as to damages was made October 12, 1963.

This investigation has failed to obtain information or evidence to support a belief that Valmore Forgett, Jr., president of Service Armament Corporation, is associated with the Minute Men of America; however, very little is known of this organization at this time. The Philadelphia office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has a record of the name of this organization, but it is not listed as a subversive organization and their files offered no leads in this investigation. Neither has there been anything to indicate that the firearms incident by Breunich and the Young Brothers of October 5, 1963 was anything other than an isolated, immature action by those involved while on an overnight camping trip. The use and possession of the weapons by Breunich and the Young brothers is not prohibited by any regulations under the National Firearms Act or the Federal Firearms Act.

In view of the foregoing, it is recommended that this investigation be closed.

J. Edward Burns

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Special Investigator